

Dept. of Bacteriology,  
3775 University Street.



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

February 20, 1962.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,  
Department of Genetics,  
Stanford University,  
Medical Center,  
Palo Alto,  
California.

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Dr. Stephen Juhasz has told me that he has written to you concerning the possibility of spending some little time visiting in your department under conditions which apparently at the moment are a little uncertain. I am writing you at his request to tell you a little about the man.

Dr. Juhasz, while in Hungary, worked for a number of years on the cytology and genetics of the Salmonella group, as he has no doubt told you. At the time of the Revolution, he elected to leave the country and arrived in Canada early in 1956, along with a number of other Hungarian bacteriologists. At that time, I was able to find a research position for Dr. Juhasz in the Royal Edward Laurentian Hospital, which then was primarily a tuberculosis hospital. Because of that fact, it was rather necessary that his research interests be reconsidered, and he decided to carry on in the field of cytology and genetics as applied to the genus Mycobacterium. During the past five years, he has been concerned with the microscopic examination of tubercle bacilli in a search for sexual modes of reproduction, particularly conjugation, and in attempts to assess the reproductive significance of the granules and globules which he observed in his agar block preparations. In addition, he has spent a great deal of time trying to bring about transduction and transformation among the mycobacteria using the standard techniques with which you are very familiar.

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Juhasz

The success of these various experimental procedures is in some cases rather debatable, but he has accumulated a very interesting lot of experimental data in the meantime. During the past two and a half years, he has been registered as a graduate student at McGill, and just two weeks ago fulfilled all the requirements for the granting of the Ph.D. in Bacteriology from this university.


He is a well qualified and well trained investigator who is quite capable of proceeding under his own steam. At the moment, the interests of the people in this department in bacterial genetics are mainly in the field of teaching rather than in the field of research. Dr. Juhasz feels, and I quite agree with him, that it would be most stimulating for him in his own field, were he able to spend a considerable time in the midst of a group of investigators whose interests are similar to his own.

I do not know what sort of arrangement it might be possible for you to make, but any period from three months to a year or longer would be of immense value to Dr. Juhasz, and I feel reasonably confident that he would contribute a good deal to the discussions among your own people. I should point out that Dr. Juhasz has, as his main interest in life, research. He has done some teaching for us in the department, but his first love is research.

I am not sure what complications might arise in the way of immigration status and so on, but Dr. Juhasz is due to receive his Canadian citizenship within the next few weeks. This might simplify matters a good deal. I hope that it will be possible for you to offer Dr. Juhasz some reasonable sort of post-doctoral fellowship, since I feel that he would benefit a great deal by association with, and working with your group.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
R.W. Reed, M.D.  
Prof. & Chairman.